

The District 3 Slate

August 2005

County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

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County Supervisor
Pam Slater-Price

August offers us this reminder: Are you "shot?"

This is National Immunization Awareness Month, a reminder that public health is up to each and every one of us. August is a month of transition - students off to college, students beginning school for the first time - and serves as a good reminder to make sure that your family's immunizations are all up-to-date.

It is still possible to be infected by a vaccine-preventable disease. Last year, this county reported 124 official cases of whopping cough in just six months. To see what vaccinations a family member might need, you should check out the county website at www.immunization-sd.org or call the toll-free number at (888) 692-2575.

A shot may sting for a second but it provides years of prevention. Update yours today!

Pam

Shoreline Preservation Is Renewed

Pilot Project Proposed; Finding Funds Is Key

Beach nourishment programs are as important to the local economy as they are to lovers of surf, sun and sand. The conference I organized and hosted in early August, titled, "The Wave of the Future: Shoreline Preservation Technologies & Strategies," brought together a coalition of beach advocates, officials who worked on the first beach renourishment project that came out of the dredging of San Diego Bay, developers of new technology that keeps sand on shore, and lobbyists familiar with the state and federal agencies who fund such projects.

Coastal erosion is more than a nuisance of nature; it threatens our quality of life and endangers a multi-million dollar tourism industry. The reality is coastal erosion is avoidable if we are willing to make the commitment to protect and enhance our beaches. This debate is not about protecting bluffside private property; we must look beyond the homes and see the bigger picture. Without a comprehensive plan to return our beaches to the size they were in the 1960s, this region will suffer economically.

This toll will come from a variety of directions - loss of tourism dollars, commuters frustrated by gridlock due to damage to public infrastructure such as the coastal highway and the rail corridor; tax revenue in decline due to the devalued property values in coastal communities where bluff damage is rampant; and environmental damage to our lagoons, which protect endangered species of birds, plants and mammals.

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STATE SPENDING ON BEACH RESTORATION

State	Population ¹	Funding ²	Per-Capita
Hawaii	1.2	\$07	\$5.80
New Jersey	8.2	\$25	\$3.05
Florida	15.10	\$35	\$2.30
New York	18.2	\$20	\$1.10
Texas	20.04	\$11	\$0.55
California	33.145	\$10	\$0.30

¹per million people

²per million dollars

Info provided by the California Coastal Coalition (CalCoast)

FEDERAL SHORELINE PROTECTION

NEW JERSEY	\$111 M
NEW YORK	\$104 M
FLORIDA	\$90 M
CALIFORNIA	\$10 M

Total expenditures (1995-99): \$463 million. California: 2.2%

Info provided by the American Coastal Coalition

AROUND OUR COUNTY

SHORELINE

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The reality is all stakeholders must work together to protect these resources. A wide sandy beach is the best natural protection against winter storms that pound our bluffs, causing erosion.

"Beaches are an integral part of the California economy," explained Kim Sterrett of the state Department of Boating and Waterways. "More people visit the (California) coast than visit all of the U.S. park system." This translates into 578 million annual visits.

Even though state beaches account for just 2.7 percent of the state park system, they account for more than 72 percent of the attendance to state parks! A 1997 study done by San Francisco State University found that residents take more than 500 million trips to a beach each year. Add to the equation the 85 million trips by out-of-state visitors and you see the economic impact a healthy beach has on its community.

But our beaches cannot thrive on their own. Beaches throughout this county share one problem - a deficit of sand, today totaling more than 30 million cubic yards. The

pilot project done in conjunction with the U.S. Navy (when San Diego Bay was dredged for the homeporting of the nuclear aircraft carrier USS Stennis) created an accumulative 6 miles of new beach. We learned important lessons during this project that will help us retain even more sand when funding is secured to renourish other beaches. (North County beaches alone need at least 1.5 million cubic yards of sand.)

The State of California spends 10 cents per person (up from 7 cents!) on combating beach erosion; the Carolinas, Florida and New Jersey earmark between \$1.50 and \$3 per person for their efforts. This is the commitment that we need to make here. The technology is available to economically restore and retain sand on a

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beach.

Two very real, very affordable options were presented at the conference. They are not cheap but the solution to our coastal crisis critical is we are to protect a quality of life that cannot be recaptured once it is gone.

Kenneth Christensen sees coastal erosion from an international perspective. As president of EcoShore Int. of Denmark, his company is at the



forefront of the PEM - Pressure Equalizing Modules - system that has stabilized and restored beaches in Denmark and Sweden.

The PEM system operates on the belief that a "dry" beach is a stabilized beach. Its modules reduce the volume of ground water at a beach's waterline, leaving what is known as the "swash zone" drier and more stable. Sand is stabilized on the beach. Several test sites have shown remarkable increases in sand quantity. One project in Northern Jutland, Denmark, saw the shoreline gain 8 to 20 cubic yards of sandy beach; in five years, this stretch of shore has grown 2 feet in height.

A second option was offered by Tim Engle of Beach Restoration Inc. This company's philosophy is to work *with* nature, not against nature, to stabilize a shoreline through the use of strategically placed bags that are placed vertical to a beach. The bags are filled with sand, blend into the shoreline, and are engineered to restore balance to the interaction between inflow and outflow. The bags are 3 to 5 feet in width, 24 to 40 inches in height, and are placed 150 to 500 feet into the ocean.

This system is currently in use on the East Coast, and was credited with retaining sand at Stump Pass State Park in Florida that was struck by Hurricane Charlie.

These two very different approaches represent real solutions to resolving our beach erosion problems. One system may work best in North County, where the bluffs are closer to the shoreline, while the other might be better for a stretch of shore like that found in Mission or Pacific Beach.

It is obvious that San Diego County is a unique situation and that there are unique solutions available to restore our beaches. Our goal must be to recapture the beaches we had just 10 to 12 years ago. Working together, we must develop a pilot project that will prove, once and for all, that we can return our beaches to the heyday of the 1960s.



AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

Investing in the organizations that invest in improving our neighborhoods is one way to enhance the quality of life that gives the Third District its unique sense of community. The Board of Supervisors approved my requests as outlined below:

SAN DIEGO

Making Music Together

No summer would be complete without an evening of music under the stars. The Kiwanis Club of Lake Murray goes to extraordinary effort to put on a July 4th music festival and firework display. Because I firmly believe such events promote community togetherness, I assisted the Kiwanis with a \$5,000 community projects grant.

SAN DIEGO

Honoring Those Who Served

We can never fully realize the commitment and dedication of our sons and daughters who serve in our military. And we must never forget this sacrifice. I awarded the Veteran's Memorial Center \$5,000 so the organization can procure new exhibits and continue its educational outreach programs. Next time you visit Balboa Park, check out the Veteran's Museum.



WORTHWHILE HONOR

Libraries are an important resource for our culture and our communities. It was my honor to represent a proclamation to the Friends of the Solana Beach Library for its innovative "Noches de Familia" program, which also won an award from the National Library Association. Accepting the award is Friends of the Solana Beach Library President Mary J. Boyd.



THEY ARE THE TRUE CHAMPIONS...

It was an honor to recognize the 2005 Clean Water Champion awardess (above, from left): Supervisor Greg Cox; Fred Cagle, Southwest Wetland Interpretive Association; Mike McCoy, Southwest Wetland Interpretive Association; Wayne Dickey, Otay River Valley Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee; John Willett, Otay River Valley Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee; Merle Okino O'Neill, Communities Alive in Nature/Carlsbad Watershed Network and, to my right, Marty Eberhardt, Water Conservation Garden; Hiram Sarabia, San Diego Baykeeper/Citizens Watershed Monitoring Consortium; and Dr. Badriya, San Diego State University/Citizens Watershed Monitoring Consortium.



Donation Enhances Animal Shelter

Late July was a great time for advocates of the humane treatment of lost, abandoned or no longer wanted animals. The Board of Supervisors accepted an \$181,576 donation from the Leona R. Sternberg Trust Fund that will be used to equip and enhance the North County Animal Shelter in Carlsbad.

The new 25,000-square-foot facility will be completed this summer. With work advancing on the North County facility, attention returns to the South County Animal Shelter.

Supervisors agreed to accept bids to modernize that facility. That proposal calls for a cost of \$528,069.

Probation Officers Earn Their Recognition

We realize how the presence of sheriff's deputies and police officers allow a society to maintain its civility. But we often overlook the importance of probation and parole officers in keeping our neighborhoods safe and secure from those who mean us harm.

San Diego County has about 900 sworn probation officers to supervise more than 19,000 adult offenders and another 3,500 juvenile offenders. A typical day can bring a probation officer in contact with a gang member, high-risk sex offender, drug dealer and child abuser. San Diego's dedicated force also oversees two juvenile detention

facilities, three 24-hour treatment facilities and several day-treatment programs.

In recognizing their contributions to society, San Diego County Chief Probation Officer Vincent Iaria explains: "These officers have the difficult and dangerous task of closely monitoring an offender's associations, activities and intentions. Probation and parole officers stop many crimes before they occur in every neighborhood in our county."

To learn more about the programs and services offered by the county Probation Department, call (858) 514-3212 or visit www.sdcountry.ca.gov/probation.

PAM'S PERSPECTIVE

Illicit Drug Still Has Its Evil Grip On This Region

Ten years ago North San Diego County was dubiously named the nation's "Methamphetamine Capital" because most of the highly addictive illicit drug was manufactured in this region. Meth quickly and quietly moved from isolated homes in the Borrego desert and the backcountry to the neighborhoods of Clairemont and RB, from Valley Center and Escondido to the beaches.

Responding to this growing

crisis, the county Board of Supervisors launched a coordinated campaign against meth - from the initial purchase of its base chemicals to its eventual distribution. This crackdown forced dealers and "cookers" - those who produced the drug using such dangerous (and explosive) chemicals as lye, ether, Drano, lighter fluid and hydroiodic acid - to seek safer places to perform their nefarious activities.

It now appears that meth is



Do you suspect that meth is being produced in your neighborhood?

Call the county's confidential **Meth Hotline** at **(800) 649-4494**.

trying to make a comeback in this county. Law enforcement agencies apprehended

more than 7,700 suspects in 2003 (the year with complete data to analyze). Four in 10 adults arrested had meth in their systems. And 210 people lost their lives due, in part, to meth.

Due to the chemicals used, meth labs are toxic timebombs. They foul the environment. The DEA estimates the federal cost for cleaning up meth sites nationally skyrocketed from \$2 million in 1995 to \$23.8 million in 2002. Now add on the local costs and you see how pervasive this problems has become.

One reason cited for meth's comeback is homeland security. So much effort and funding

has been concentrated on anti-terrorism efforts that the war on meth suffers. This year in Congress, the "meth caucus" of more than 100 members representing 35 states, fought for \$360 million for programs targeting meth production in non-urban communities. Federal drug authorities estimate there are 1.5 million addicts regular-

ly use meth in the United States, supplied by home-based suppliers that operate independently of each other. No wonder U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales calls meth "the most dangerous drug in America."

This county cannot turn its back on this epidemic. We know how meth invades our communities, our schools, our hospitals, our lives. It poisons all who are lured into its deadly grip.

This board is united in its resolve to stop meth. The federal government cannot abandon its war on drugs, leaving the fight up to local authorities who are overwhelmed and underfunded. Drug abuse costs this nation 19,000 lives and \$160 billion annually. This is a form of terrorism that we need to fight before more lives are lost.

The staff of Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

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